

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Halls High School of Knoxville on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly recognize those venerable educational institutions that are celebrating momentous occasions in their long and storied histories; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is Halls High School of Knoxville, which has marked its 100th anniversary this school year. For 100 years, this school has offered an unmatched educational experience and fostered the growth and broadening of some of Tennessee's finest minds; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, seeing the need for one consolidated grammar school, the Knox County Quarterly Court appropriated \$11,000 to merge five schools into one; those schools were Blooming Grove School, Stoney Point School, Montvale, Bright Hope School, and Flint Hill; and

WHEREAS, on land provided by A.I. Smith, which is presently the intersection of East Emory Road and Maynardville Highway, G.W. Hall and Sons constructed the original school building designed by L.C. Waters; and

WHEREAS, funds for the school were generously donated by W.G. Barnard, P.W. Gallison, Noah Griffith, E.G. Hall (who became the school's first principal), A.D. Hensley, T.N. Hunter, L.N. Hunter, T.J. Hutton, I.L. Irwin, D.L. King, R. Ledgerwood, G.W. LaRue, W.G. Mynatt, Ernest G. Mynatt, G.M. Mink, J.G. Minton, S.E. Mayes, A. Smith, A.I. Smith, Iva Wallace, and J.G. Whitson; and

WHEREAS, the school opened its doors in time for the 1916-17 school year; and

WHEREAS, the educational needs of the community were not only met, but exceeded expectations, as Deaderick Lakin, elementary principal from 1944-69, put it, "When Halls School was first constructed, it seemed adequate for ... many years to come. In fact, many (said) it would never be filled."; and

WHEREAS, within ten years, the school needed to grow with the expanding community, so in 1926, after a demand for a junior high school and a senior high school, four classrooms and an auditorium were added; and

WHEREAS, the community grew ever still, and in 1938, a high school was built where the present-day middle school stands. The land on East Emory Road was obtained from Tobe Ledgerwood; the new school building contained grades seven through twelve. Costing \$56,486, the construction utilized laborers from the New Deal's Works Progress Administration; and

WHEREAS, during those early days, the new high school's first principal was E.E. Hendricks; the school colors were green and white until students demanded the brighter, now famous red and white standard; and students needed only sixteen credits for graduation; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, the Halls Crossroads community began to boom, and more room for students was needed yet again. The first post-war graduating class had twenty-five seniors. Joe Palmer saw to it that the school was remodeled after he became principal during the 1948-49 school year; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. J.W. "Bill" Phifer worked together with guidance counselor and middle school pioneer Dr. James Ivey to create Halls Middle School, the first middle school in the state. Dr. Ivey became that school's principal for a tenure of twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, growth doubled and a new high school was needed; a 153-square-foot, \$2.7 million construction project began in July 1969. The school was partially completed by December 1970, and the administrative and music buildings were added by the following July, thus completing the school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phifer was succeeded by Roy Mullins as principal during the 1973-74 school year; Mark Duff, a former middle and high school teacher, is the current principal; and

WHEREAS, over the years, a variety of educational opportunities have been added to the curriculum of Halls High School, including classes in vocational skills such as marketing, appliance service, building trades, health occupations, cosmetology, horticulture, drafting, auto industries, and driver's education; and

WHEREAS, Halls High School is not only a beacon of knowledge, but also an arena of athleticism and sportsmanship, fostering a variety of Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association team and individual state champions, including Steve Beeler, 1971 track, long jump; Chris Vandergriff, 1976 and 1977 wrestling, heavyweight; the 1986 football team; the 1986 golf team; Donnie Cooper, 1987 golf; Ben Whittkowski, 1994 track, high jump; Matt Ison, 1995 track, high jump; Shannon Sayne, 1996 wrestling at 112 pounds and 1998 at 125 pounds; Cody Humphrey, 2002 wrestling at 130 pounds; Chris Wilson, 2002 track, high jump; John Vandergriff, 2006 wrestling, heavyweight; Caleb Leonard, 2009 wrestling, heavyweight; the 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016 cheerleading teams; and the 2016 golf team; and

WHEREAS, though the original Halls High School building was destroyed by fire on May 16, 1990, the current school still stands as a bastion of education, holding true to its mission statement, "... to prepare each student to be thoughtful, confident and self-reliant, equipped with the knowledge and integrity to face the challenges of his/her complex world."; and

WHEREAS, today, Halls High School boasts an intrepid faculty that continues to abide by the belief that attention to the individual student is key in education; and

WHEREAS, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Halls High School of Knoxville have, over the past 100 years, cultivated an atmosphere of educational, athletic, and personal excellence that is second to none, and it is fitting that this body recognize this august institution on this occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor Halls High School of Knoxville on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, extending our best wishes for this fine institution's continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.